Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00420 291343Z ACTION L-03

R 291145Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY DOHA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3516

CONFIDENTIAL DOHA 420

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ENRG, QA

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF HOLCAR OIL CONCESSION IN QATAR

REF: DOHA 405

- 1. DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM AFFAIRS, ABDULLAH SALLAT, HAS SENT EMBASSY COURTESY COPY OF CABLE TO HOLLEY AND CARVER (THROUGH HOLLEY'S CABLE ADDRESS) WHICH CANCELS HOLCAR CONCESSIONARY AGREEMENT. FULL TEXT OF MESSAGE IS IN PARA THREE BELOW.
- 2. ACTION: TO PRECLUDE ACTION CITED IN UNNUMBERED SECOND PARAGRAPH OF TEXT, PLEASE INFORM HOLLEY AND CARVER THAT CANCELLATION NOTICE HAS BEEN ISSUED.

3. TEXT:

QTE HOLCAR'S COMPANY ATTN: MR. CARVER MR. HOLLEY

WE WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU HEREBY THAT A DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN TODAY BY H.E. THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM TERMINATING YOUR AGREEMENT DATED 1ST JANUARY 1976. CONFIDENTIAL

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SINCE NO PERSON HAS BEEN FOUND IN YOUR OFFICE IN DOHA WILL YOU KINDLY INFORM US PROMPTLY ABOUT OR INSTRUCT THE EMPOWERED PERSON TO RECEIVE ON YOUR BEHALF FROM US WITHIN THE CURRENT WEEK THE NOTICE OF TERMINATION OTHERWISE WE SHALL HAVE TO DELIVER IT TO THE EMBASSY OF USA IN DOHA.

HOWEVER WE ARE ANNEXING HEREWITH A FULLY COPY OF THE NOTICE TEXT IN ENGLISH FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

OUR BEST WISHES

ABDULLA H. SALLAT

THE NOTICE OF TEXT IN ENGLISH

153 EFFECTING THE TERMINATION OF THE PETROLEUM PRODUCTION SHARING AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 1, 1976.

(1) BY VIRTUE OF ARTICLE 5 OF THE PRODUCTION SHARING AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO ON JANUARY 1, 1976 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF QATAR AND YOUR COMPANY, THE LATTER UNDERTOOK TO DRILL THREE OIL WELLS ALL OF WHICH TO PENETRATE THE ARAB ZONES, AND AT LEAST ONE OF WHICH TO PENETRATE THE KHUFF ZONE, AS WELL AS TO COMPLETE FIVE WORKOVER WELLS WITHIN THE EXPLORATION AREA, DURING A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT, SO THAT SAME SHALL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY JANUARY 1, 1978.

THE COMPANY HAS VIOLATED BOTH THESE UNDERTAKINGS AS IT HAS FAILED TO COMPLETE EXCEPT TWO OF THE FIVE WORKOVER WELLS, AND HAS LIKEWISE FAILED TO DRILL ANY OF THE OTHER THREE WELLS.

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(2) FURTHERMORE, BY VIRTUE OF ARTICLES 8, 24 AND 25 OF THE ABOVE AGREEMENT, YOUR COMPANY UNDERTOOK TO CARRY OUT THE WORK PROGRAMS AGREED UPON, AND TO SUPPLY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM, AS THE COMPETENT BODY REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENT OF QATAR, WITH THE REQUISITE REPORTS, DOCUMENTS, AND DATA IN OR34 THAT THE MINISTRY BE ABLE TO OBSERVE THE OPERATION BEING PROPERLY CONDUCTED, AND TO ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH IT DEEMS FIT.

THE COMPANYHAS HOWEVER, FAILED TO CARRY OUT THESE FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATIONS.

(3) WHEREAS, ALL OF THESFSVIOLATIONS CONSITTIUTE GROSS VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AS WELL AS A MATERIAL BREACH ON THE PART OF YOUR COMPANY OF THE FUNDAMENTAL OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY IT UNDER SAID AGREEMENT, WHEREAS, THE GOVERNMENT BROUGHT THESE VIOLATIONS TO THE NOTICE OF THE COMPANY AT THE MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO PARTIES ON MAY 15, 1977, WHEREAS, ARTICLE 35 OF THE AGREEMENT CONFERS UPON THE GOVERNMENT THE RIGHT UNILATERALY TO TERMINATE THAT AGREEMENT IN THE EVENT OF THE FAILURE OF THE COMPANY TO FULFIL THE WHOLE OR PART OF ITS OBLIGATIONS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 5, OR OTHER ARTICLES OF THE AGREEMENT,

THEREFORE, WE HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH YOUR COMPANY ON JANUARY 1, 1976, AND THAT THIS NOTICE SHALL TAKE FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AGAINST YOUR COMPANY STARTING 25/3/1978.

THE GOVERNMENT SHALL THEREFORE BE ENTITLED TO TAKE WITHOUT PAYMENT ALL INSTALLATIONS, EQUIPMENTS AND MATERIALS USED FOR PETROLEUM OPERATIONS IN THE CONTRACT AREA, AND SERVICEABLE FOR ITS EXPLOITATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 30 (C) AND 35 OF THE AFORESAID AGREEMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT HEREBY RESERVES ALL OF ITS OTHER RIGHTS ARISING FROM THE TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT DUE TO THE FAILURE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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COMPANY TO FULFIL ITS OBLIGATIONS AS PROVIDED FOR IN THAT AGREEMENT.

ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM

COPY TO: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNISTED STATES OF AMERICA IN DOHA

ATTN: COMMERCIAL ATTACHE UNQTE KILLGORE

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TAGS: ENRG, QA, HOLCAR

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